

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents from the International Bureau.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the Drawings filed January 17, 2002 are accepted.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 9-21 are hereby added to more fully define the current invention. No claims have been rejected. Claims 4-8 have only been objected to for informalities.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3 are allowed.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that, as claims 4-8 are dependent from allowed independent claim 1, claims 4-8 are also allowable, pending correction of the informalities discussed below.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-8 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend upon another multiple dependent claims. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 9-21 are hereby added. Claims 9-21 correspond to the various multiply dependent claims 3, 4 and 5 rewritten in singly dependent form. Claims 9-21 are fully supported *at least* by original claims 2-6 of the instant Application, and are respectfully submitted to be allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-21.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen
Registration No. 50,855

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 8, 2003